

Ashley Falls Historic District Commission
Meeting Minutes – November 3, 2021

The meeting, held via Zoom, was called to order by Chairperson Lou Levine at 5:04 p.m. Members Phil Ghi and Sally MacKenzie were present. The Chair asked Alternate Member Catherine Miller to be a voting Member for the meeting.

Approval of the October 14, 2021 meeting minutes was postponed as they were not distributed to the Commission members prior to today's meeting. Lou will send out the minutes to members for review prior to our next meeting.

Report on recent activity:

- Lou will send out to members a corrected list of all homes/properties that fall within the AFHD. The list has recently been updated by the Assessor's Office.
- AF resident Maggie Carroll has sent an application to the Select Board to join the AFHDC. Pending her approval, she hopes to join the group in December.
- The AFHDC is also seeking a second alternate member
- Lou updated us on the status of the work being done at 1151 Ashley Falls Road (Jerry Clements) and the back and forth between the homeowner, the Town Building Inspector, and the AFHDC. Due to a series of incomplete applications presented to the Commission by the homeowner that have yet to be appropriately considered or approved, much of the work that is actively being done on the property is in violation of the AFHDC by-laws. Lou sought the support of the Building Inspector who ultimately issued a cease and desist order to Mr. Clements. Nonetheless, work continues despite no legal building permit in place.
 - Phil expressed his opinion that the issue is the Building Inspector's responsibility to enforce
 - Catherine suggested a letter be written to the homeowner expressing the AFHDC's stance and be copied to the Building Inspector. Lou reported that this has already been done.

- Sally suggested that all parties should meet in person to resolve the issues, but so far, the homeowner has not accepted our invitation to do so.
- It was suggested that we need to have the Building Inspector take the lead on this issue, as well as inform members of the Select Board about the on-going situation.
- The AFHDC reviewed the application for a Certificate of Non-applicability submitted by Lou Levine for work to be done on his home to replace exterior boards that have been damaged by birds. Lou recused himself from the discussion and vote on the application. Sally moved to approved the application; Phil seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- The election of officers was postponed until our newest member, Ms. Carroll, can participate.

The AFHDC agreed that the convenience of Zoom meetings should be considered for scheduled AFHDC sessions when members are distanced, home bound due to weather, or to accommodate the work schedules of its members. Sally volunteered to set up future Zoom meetings.

The next meeting will be called for November 18 or December 2, depending on whether new business arises.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 following a motion by Catherine and seconded by Phil. All approved.

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